1   CLAIMS

2   I claim:

3   1. An imaging system to reposition an image capture device in a position relative to a

4   subject of interest as that of a reference image of the subject of interest, comprising:

5   an image capture device;

6   a position apparatus on which the image capture device is mounted, operable to orient the

7   image capture device relative to a subject of interest;

8   a reference image of the subject of interest;

9   a computational device coupled to the position apparatus, such computational device capable

10   of receiving images from the image capture device and of receiving the reference image,

11   performing a comparison, and communicating position adjustments to reposition the image

12   capture device.

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14   2. An imaging system as in claim 1 wherein the communication of position adjustments

15   is via signals to the positional apparatus from the computational device.

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17   3. An imaging system as in claim 1 wherein the communication of position adjustments

18   is by means of positional adjustment data conveyed by means of a user interface.

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20   4. A method for repositioning an image capture device relative to a subject of interest

21   comprising the steps of:

22   a) initializing an imaging system, wherein initializing includes the steps of

23   a.1) obtaining a reference image of the subject of interest;

24   a 2) repositioning an image capture device relative to the subject of interest;

1   b) imaging the subject of interest;

2   c) computing the difference between the reference image of the subject of interest and

3 the image capture device image;

4   d) refining the position of the image capture device so that the image capture device

5 is in the same position relative to the subject of interest as that position from which the

6 reference image was obtained.

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8   5. A method as in claim 4 in which the step of initializing further includes the step of

9   generating a three dimensional model of the subject of interest through selection of

10   reference points in the subject of interest.

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12   6. A method as in claim 4 where the reference image is obtained after fixed reference

13   points have been selected in the subject of interest.

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15   7. A method as in claim 4 where the step of initializing includes extracting reference

16   points from more than one image of the subject of interest representing more than one

17   camera center.

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19   8. A method as in claim 4 where time has elapsed between the initialization process and

20   the repositioning of the image capture device.

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22   9. A method as in claim 4 where the computation of position is communicated to an

23   automatic position correction apparatus.

1 10. A method as in claim 4 where the computation of position is communicated to the

2 user through an interface.

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4 11. An apparatus for positioning an imaging device and adapted for operably coupling to

5 an image capture device and where such apparatus is capable of positioning said image

6 capture device, such that the positioning of the image capture device is controllable and

7 said apparatus is operable to orient the image capture device relative to a subject of

8 interest.

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10 12. An apparatus as in claim 11 where the positioning of the image capture device is

11 automated.

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